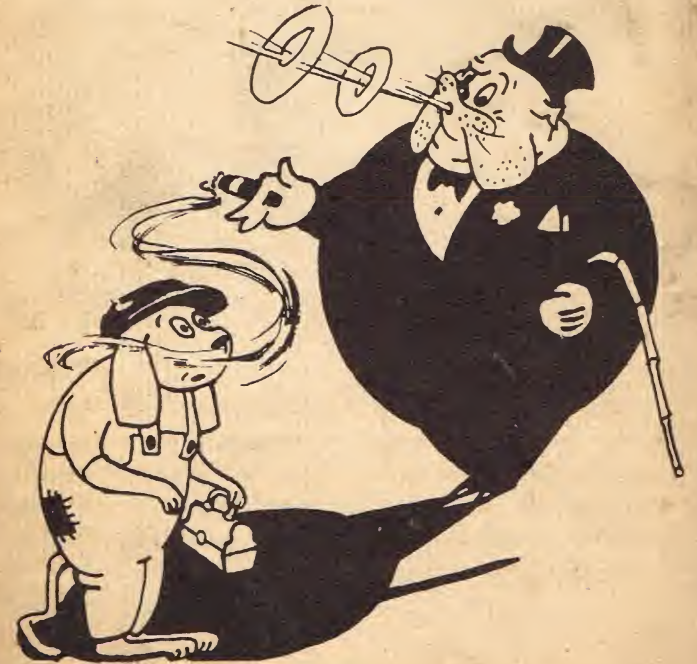


Underdogs Vs. Upperdogs

*A picture-story of
the struggle against social injustice*

By JIM PECK



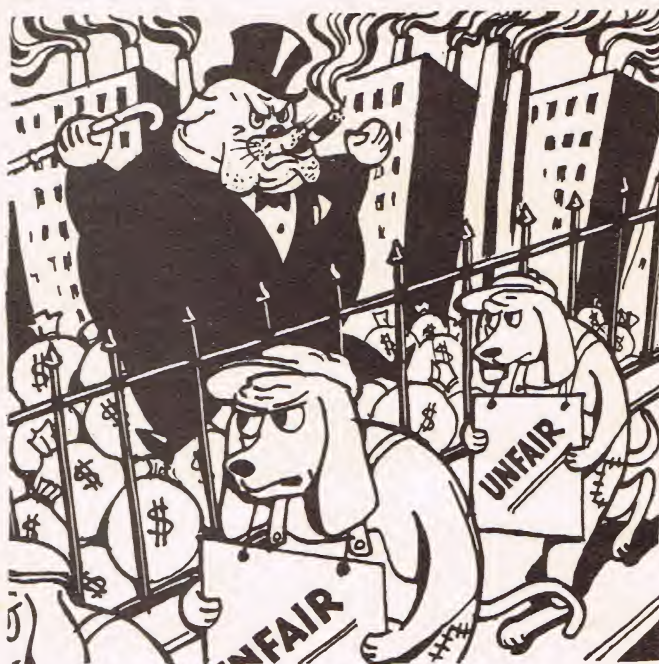
Illustrated by MAT KAUTEN



Within continents, nations, regions, towns and neighborhoods the struggle for more social justice has been—and from the evidence of history always will be—one of underdogs against upperdogs. The upperdogs have fought to maintain social INjustice, trying to take away the few bones that the underdogs have won.



In reality the upperdogs are after money and property, not bones. The wealthier the upperdogs become, the more power they can wield over the underdogs. The economic struggle occurs at the point of production (factory, farm or mine) and at the point of consumption (market, store or salesroom).



At the point of production the underdogs unite in unions to fight for higher pay, shorter hours and improved working conditions. Their strongest weapons are the strike and the slowdown. The upperdogs fight to increase their profits through lower pay, longer hours and the speedup. Their strongest weapon is the lockout.



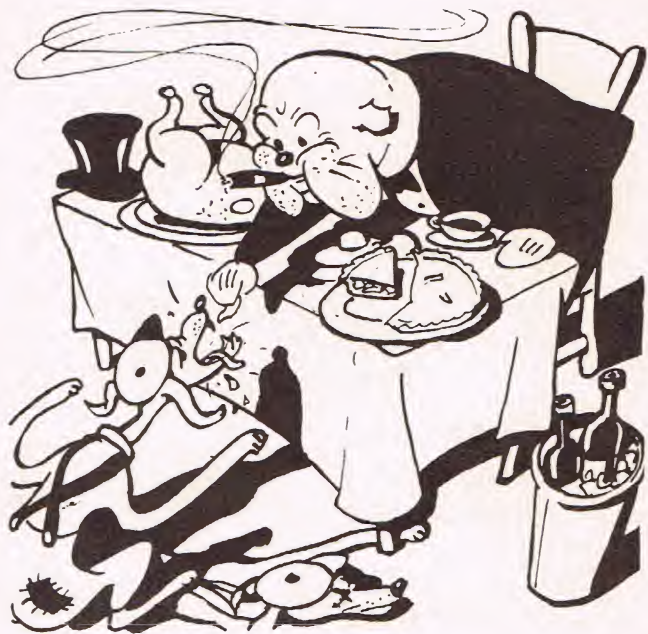
At the point of consumption the underdogs fight for lower prices. The upperdogs fight for higher prices—without making them so high as to cut sales volume. The underdogs' most powerful weapon is the boycott: the upperdogs' is price-rigging. Upperdogs bark about free enterprise, but behind the scenes they fix prices.



But all is not harmony within the upperdog and underdog ranks. Both camps are made up of individuals whose actions are based on what they consider most advantageous to *themselves*. Individual underdogs strive to become upperdogs. Individual upperdogs strive for still more wealth and power.



In industrialized countries there is a big group of middledogs with white collars caught between the upperdogs and underdogs. Living on the hope of climbing into the upperdog ranks, they usually align themselves with the upperdogs. The more realistic middledogs, knowing they can never become upperdogs, line up with the underdogs.



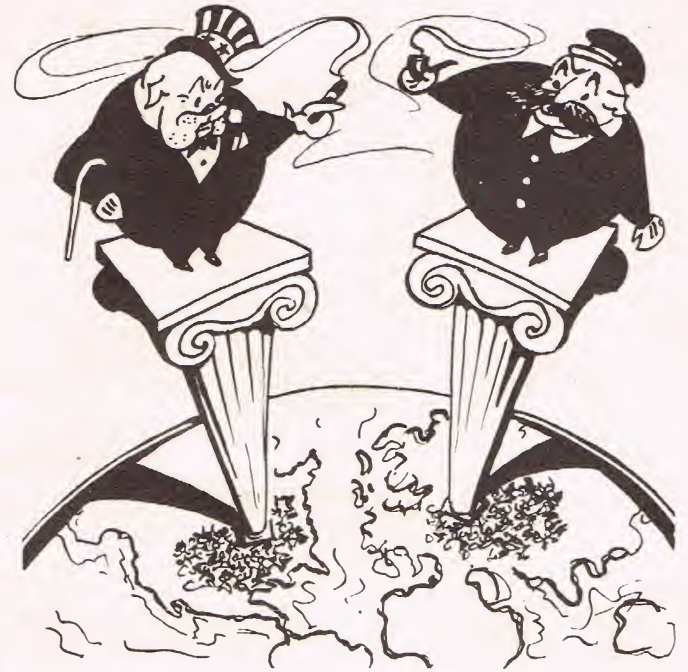
Although in an extreme minority, the upperdogs possess most of the wealth and thereby control society. By influencing underdog and middledog thinking, by buying off their leaders with big jobs, by playing race against race and nation against nation, the upperdogs turn a lot of underdogs into stooges.



In seeking more power, wealth and land, the biggest upperdogs of different nations on occasion promote wars. By waving a colored cloth known as a flag and by drumming up nationalistic hysteria, the upperdogs get underdogs of one country to join armies and kill underdogs of another country.



By controlling the news sources and educational system, upperdogs can influence underdog thinking. The two main institutions used for oppressing the underdogs are church and government. The church teaches underdogs to be humble. The government teaches them to comply with upperdog-made laws.



In the capitalist systems of the U.S.A. and western Europe, government officials are stooges of the upperdog-capitalists. In the communist systems of eastern Europe and in the fascist system of Franco-Spain, top government officials are themselves the upperdogs. The socialist system is a combination of the two.



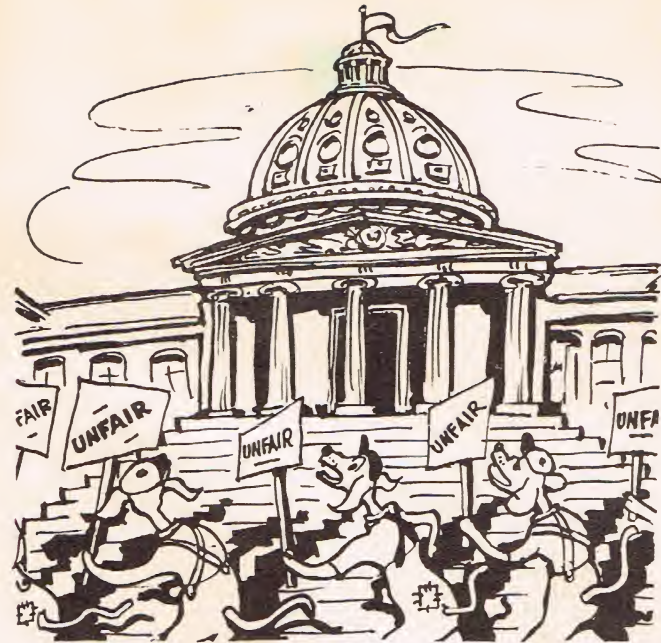
In various revolutions, underdogs have succeeded in overthrowing an entire group of upperdogs. But no sooner did the underdog leaders become upperdogs, than they turned against the underdogs, using fresh slogans to carry on the same old exploitation. Through the centuries, however, underdogs have gradually improved their lot.



For continued progress, underdogs should strive to maintain complete civil rights and to avoid all thought control. They should strengthen labor and consumer unions so they can effectively use the strike and boycott. They should strive to keep unions rank-and-file controlled. They should combat racial prejudice and nationalism.



In totalitarian countries, the upperdog-underdog struggle is outlawed. The speedup, regimentation and militarism are justified on the grounds of building up the nation. Under such a setup, underdogs must first win the right to organize against their upperdogs and to engage in anti-upperdog activities.



Under all social systems the most important underdog struggle of the future is to win the right to strike against government. Government-operated industry exploits the underdogs just like privately-operated industry. Top government officials are now replacing the capitalists as the world's upperdogs.

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